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MBDA Commissioned Report Becomes Model for Training Program

The U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) Foundation, with representatives from the White House, the MBDA, and the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College, launched a training program for USHCC members on mastering domestic and international supply chains. The program is based on the report, *Minority Business Enterprises Mastering the Supply Chain: A Perspective* which was presented by the MBDA and the Tuck School of Business at the National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week 2006 Conference. The training will be conducted in ten cities over the next two years and will focus on educating the Latino business community and local chambers. To finance the sessions, Comcast donated \$300,000 to the USHCC Foundation. A copy of the report is available at www.mbda.gov/research.

25th Anniversary MED Week Registration Now Open



The MBDA will host its 25th anniversary Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week National Conference on **September 13-14 2007**. This year's theme, *Celebrating the Legacy of Innovation and Competitiveness*, will focus on past achievements, while also looking to the future. Renowned author and innovation expert Vijay Govindarajan will be the keynote speaker, and Steve Forbes will chair the Honorary Committee. The conference will be filled with enlightening workshops, valuable networking events, and an exciting awards gala for minority businesses and strategic partners. **This historic event is not to be missed!** To register, or to learn about sponsorship, please visit www.medweek.gov.

MBDA Remembers Congressman Parren Mitchell

During his eight terms in Congress representing Maryland's second district (1971-1987), the Honorable Parren Mitchell advocated for small and minority-owned business. He was instrumental in shaping the Small Business Innovation Development Act that created the Small Business Innovation and Research program and authored legislation that created the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization. Many believe his work contributed to the formation of the MBDA. Following his passing on May 28, 2007, National Director Ronald Langston issued a statement: "[Mr. Mitchell was] an American treasure... a tremendous leader and true pioneer ... MBDA will continue to honor his vision and passion for the growth and expansion of minority business."



NABEC Spotlight

California NABEC

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California NABEC Assists in Securing \$588K Contract with U. S. Navy

The California Native American Business Enterprise Center (CA NABEC) facilitated a \$588,000 construction contract between the U. S. Navy and its client, Paragon Industrial Applications. The firm works in general construction including industrial painting and coating applications. It is owned by Ms. Joyce Le Francois, a Native American. Paragon was started in December 1991 and is headquartered in Atascadero, California.

Did you know...

California, Texas,
New York, Florida
and Illinois have the
highest percentage
of minority owned
firms in the US.¹

New MBDA Centers Host Open Houses

In May, the St. Louis Minority Business Opportunity Center (MBOC) and Nevada Minority Business Enterprise Centers (MBEC) held open houses as part of their grand opening and initial outreach to the communities they serve. MBDA National Director Ronald N. Langston, local elected officials and representatives from local businesses and nonprofit organizations, as well as strategic partners were present at all events. Grand opening events also took place at the Louisiana MBOC and the Alabama MBEC earlier in the year.



National Director Ronald Langston, SF Regional Director Linda Marmolejo, & Clark County Chair Reid & Commissioner Lawrence Weekly at the Nevada MBEC (left). Presentation of check to St. Louis MBEC (right).

MBDA Guidance Leads to *Biz Tech-Connect* Technology Training for MWEs

MBDA facilitated a partnership between the Information Technology Association of America (ITTA) and the Technology Partnership for Small Business Task Force to develop and promote *Biz Tech-Connect*. This resource, located at www.biztechconnect.com, presents small businesses with information, training, and technology tools on how the use of technology will improve their business and thereby increase revenue- all free of charge. An Urban Institute report concluded that should Minority and Women-owned Enterprises (MWEs) effectively utilize technology, their potential GDP increase would be \$100,000. At this premier website the technology courses are broken into well organized modules. Users will find a comprehensive series of topics that will allow them to introduce new technologies to their workplace.

Free Newsletter for Small Businesses

The Small Business/Self-Employed operating division of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) publishes an e-News with useful tax and other information for small business owners. It is sent out every Wednesday and provides links to resources on www.irs.gov and information such as important dates and tips for filing taxes. Additionally, e-News will alert subscribers to IRS news releases and announcements pertinent to their sector. To subscribe, go to: <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/content/> and click "e-News for Small Business."

MBDA Presents Business-To-Business Forum *Perini Building Company*

In conjunction with the Perini Building Company, MBDA held a Forum to discuss contract opportunities with medium and large minority owned firms located mainly on the West Coast. Representative from twenty firms attended the event to meet with Perini's management and chief estimators to learn how to qualify for contracts worth \$5.0 million or more as part of the MGM CityCenter project in Las Vegas. The MBDA San Francisco National Enterprise Center and the Nevada MBEC coordinated and conducted the forum. Perini will continue to work with the Nevada MBEC as a strategic partner in identifying qualified firms for this \$3.0 billion project.



Minority firms discussed contracts with Perini Building Company

MinorityBiz Facts™ U.S. MINORITY FIRMS EMPLOY 4.7 M PEOPLE¹

MBDA Business News is published by the Minority Business Development Agency's Office of Legislative, Education and Intergovernmental Affairs in Washington, DC. If you have any comments please contact us at news@mbda.gov.

¹US Census 2002 Survey of Business Owners/MBDA data